

## **John Sharpe Named GIPSA Technical Services Division Director**

WASHINGTON, DC, May 16, 2007 – The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that John Sharpe is the new director of the Agency's Technical Services Division in Kansas City, Mo.

"We are pleased that John will be leading our largest Kansas City unit," said GIPSA administrator James Link. "His strong leadership skills and extensive experience in all facets of Agency operations will be essential to the success of the Division, and to the expansion of our grain program operations in the Kansas City area."

The Technical Services Division is GIPSA's central research and development laboratory, responsible for official test and reference methods, inspection methods development, instrument calibration, laboratory accreditation, test kit verification, technical training, quality control and standardization processes, and final inspection appeals.

Sharpe brings to the position a great deal of agricultural experience, valuable skills, and expertise gained during his diverse and accomplished professional career. Before joining USDA in 1982, Sharpe managed a corporate sugar cane farm and worked with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. While with USDA, he worked for the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now the Farm Service Agency) and GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service. From 2001 until 2004, Sharpe was chief of GIPSA's Data and Information Analysis Branch, where he re-engineered the agency's national quality control program, and developed a new process verification program designed to meet the evolving needs of agriculture. He served as director of GIPSA's Compliance Division from 2004 until being named director of the Technical Services Division.

Sharpe is a graduate of the University of Florida where he earned a degree in Food and Resource Economics and Animal Science. He also is a 2004 graduate of the USDA Senior Executive Service Candidate Program. He grew up on a cattle ranch in Chairs, Florida, and is still involved in the family ranching activities.

Sharpe replaces Steve Tanner, who left GIPSA in February 2007.

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.